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*Plague prevalent at Niuchwang.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, D. C., October 16, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a telegram in regard to the plague at Niuchwang, China, received by the Russian consul-general at Shanghai on the 9th ultimo, and forwarded here by the consul-general of the United States at Shanghai in his dispatch dated the 11th ultimo.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,  
DAVID J. HILL,  
Acting Secretary.

HON. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

*The plague at Niuchwang.*

[Inclosed in dispatch September 11, 1899—Shanghai.]

News has reached here by wire this morning that a Government doctor sent to make an investigation has discovered in the Chinese quarter at Niuchwang four depots containing 2,000 fresh coffins of plague victims waiting to be sent to their native provinces. It is understood that the most stringent precautions are being taken to prevent any of these being brought by junks to Shanghai.

## CUBA.

*Reports from Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Santa Cruz, and Tunas.*

CIENFUEGOS, CUBA, October 16, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report that during the week ended October 14, 1899, 29 deaths have occurred in this city, 5 from malaria, 4 from intestinal diseases, and 4 from tuberculosis. No contagious diseases; the death rate this week is 37.80.

Inspected 16 vessels on arrival, and 10 on departure, during the week.

*Trinidad.*—Dr. Alejandro Cantero, reports 10 deaths during the week, 3 from malaria, 1 from tuberculosis, no contagious diseases, 5 vessels inspected during the week.

*Santa Cruz.*—Dr. Juan R. Xiques, reports no deaths during the week, no contagious diseases. Ten vessels inspected during the week.

*Tunas.*—Dr. Francisco Ravella reports no deaths, no contagious diseases during the week. Six vessels inspected during the week.

Respectfully, yours,  
J. M. LINDSLEY,  
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON GENERAL,  
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

*Reports from Havana.*

HAVANA, CUBA, October 12, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the usual summary of our work at this port for the past week.

There is not much yellow fever in Havana just now, but what little there is, is virulent. Four new cases and 5 deaths were officially recorded for the week. All of the new cases were Spaniards, who had been on the island less than three years.

There are, comparatively, very few Americans in the city. Travel to and from Havana and the United States is light; nevertheless we had

a very busy week of it, as will be seen by the following résumé of the work done:

Twenty-seven vessels were inspected upon arrival and given free pratique. They brought 1,566 passengers. Twenty three vessels were inspected and given bills of health prior to sailing. Eight vessels were disinfected. Three hundred and ninety-six health-certificates were issued to persons desiring to leave for the United States, 52 of whom were vaccinated. During this same week 120 bags of mail were disinfected and 734 pieces of baggage; also much miscellaneous work was done, including the quarantining of the steamship *La Navarre*.

The French trans-Atlantic liner *La Navarre* with 800 souls on board, arrived here on the 2d instant, with 1 case and 1 convalescent from smallpox. It appeared, from a careful inquiry, that the steamship permitted the infection on board as a result of gross, if not criminal negligence.

At Corunna, Spain, transportation was given a woman, convalescent from smallpox, and it is said in spite of the protests of other passengers. Her skin was still desquamating upon arrival here, and she is now in hospital. On the trip over another passenger (male) in the same steerage was taken sick, and arrived here with the eruption in the pustular stage. It is reasonable to suppose that the 1 case contracted the disease from the other. These 2 patients were sent to Aldecoa Hospital, which is used by the city for such cases.

Many of the crew and passengers were vaccinated and the cabin passengers released. The steerage passengers (411) had all their baggage disinfected and were placed on two schooners anchored in the harbor to ride out the period of incubation. The vessel was disinfected in all the parts exposed to the contagion.

The *La Navarre* incident seems to be something new in the history of Havana quarantine, and has been much discussed. Public opinion is divided; one newspaper considers the detention of the passengers a "brutal outrage," and demands the intervention of the city authorities to obtain their release, while others appreciate the precautions taken by this Service to protect the community.

Before our Service took charge of the quarantine affairs at this port, I am told, a vessel arriving with smallpox was treated like any other vessel. The patient was simply sent to hospital and all the passengers landed. There could have been no effective disinfection because there was no apparatus. The vessel sailed away to bring back another cargo, more passengers, and possibly another case.

There are two lessons to be learned from the quarantining of *La Navarre*: (1) The need of a Service lazaretto and barracks at this port; (2) more careful medical inspection of passengers at Spanish ports.

Last week I inspected the disinfection of baggage arriving on a steamer, the *Vigilancia*, from Vera Cruz. Some of this baggage was the worst I have seen. It was overrun with cockroaches, ants, and other vermin. Food, laborers' tools, clothing, bedding, and cooking utensils, were all messed up together. Some was condemned, and all disinfected. I have written Dr. Hodgson, asking him to refuse the shipment of such baggage at Vera Cruz.

Another death from yellow fever occurred at the Machina on the 5th instant, and this Service again disinfected these quarters.

The report of our disinfection at the Machina has been made so many times in these letters during the past months that an explanation is necessary.

The Machina is a naval reservation, and is the one part of the water front, on the Havana side, that can be said to be uninfected. Here a body of marines have been quartered until very recently. At present the crew of the tugboat *Accomack*, hospital stewards, and a few attendants of the United States Navy are quartered there.

These people have access to town, where they receive their infection. During their illness they are treated at the Machina hospital, and naturally these premises require disinfection after all cases.

The U. S. A. transport *Kilpatrick* sailed with many passengers on the 4th instant, the same day *La Navarre* was being disinfected. We disinfected 2 carloads of baggage for the *Kilpatrick*.

It requires no stretch of the imagination to understand that the accomplishment of the amount of work outlined in these letters is calculated to keep the force at this station busy.

The many self sacrifices and the devotion to duty shown by all—officers and men—deserve the highest commendation. Last week the entire force worked from daylight until past midnight two days hand running in order not to delay travel. This has not been unusual of late.

The weather continues dry, and last week the trade winds failed, so that the oppressive heat was felt by all.

Inclosed is the mortality table for the week.

Respectfully, yours,

M. J. ROSENAU,

*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

[Inclosure.]

*Mortality report of the city of Havana, Cuba, for the week ended October 7, 1899.*

Yellow fever .....	5
Tuberculosis .....	20
Infecciosa .....	2
Paludal.....	5
Perniciosa.....	2
Typhoid .....	3
Enteritis .....	11
Pneumonia .....	2
La grippe.....	2
Deaths from all causes.....	117

HAVANA, CUBA, *October 17, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report as follows: The rains last week are blamed for an increase of yellow fever. There were 11 new cases and 4 deaths during the week. Seven of the 11 cases were Americans. All the new cases were in persons who had been on the island less than one year. Four of the cases of yellow fever came from the water front: (First) The fireman on our yacht *Dora*. The patient was taken to the hospital and the boat disinfected. (Second) One of the crew of the Cuban vivero *Rita*. She was disinfected and released, the remainder of her crew being immunes. (Third) We took a case of yellow fever from the barge *Colleen* just as she was about to sail for Mobile. The patient was sent to the hospital and the vessel disinfected and held here for five days' observation. (Fourth) A case from the passenger steamer *Mortera*. The usual measures were taken.

The 405 steerage passengers from the French liner *La Navarre* were released to-day. They were kept on 2 schooners anchored in the harbor fourteen days on account of smallpox.

Havana has so long been an infected city, and a menace to the health of the rest of the world, that the detention of so many apparently strong and healthy people was not understood. Public opinion, as expressed by newspaper editorials, not only considered this measure unnecessary, but inhuman, and freely predicted that yellow fever, or some worse plague was bound to break out among so many people confined on schooners in such a filthy harbor as this is. However, no sickness occurred, and Havana was not only protected against smallpox, but the detained passengers were successfully quarantined against yellow fever.

One of the schooners on which these passengers were detained is called the *San Fernando*. About two weeks before *La Navarre* came into port, a case of yellow fever was removed from this schooner, and the vessel disinfected by the *Protector*. The fact that 200 reagents lived on her two weeks following this, without the appearance of a single case of fever, is another instance of the good work done by the *Protector*.

The U. S. transport *Sedgwick* sailed October 15 for New York, with a battalion of the Second United States Heavy Artillery. Part of this battalion came from Cabanas fortress, and as they were bound for St. Augustine and other southern points, all their baggage and camp equipment was disinfected. This vessel carried the largest amount of baggage we have ever disinfected for one boat. There were 1,064 pieces—117½ tons. Every piece was opened; all textile fabrics were steamed, and the remainder formaldehyded. We completed this task in two days by dividing the work up between the land plant and the disinfecting barge.

The steamship *Cocoa* brought a deckload of potatoes from Miami, October 13. The potatoes rotted en route. They were condemned, and the *Cocoa* required to go to sea in order to throw them overboard. She will be disinfected here before proceeding.

In accordance with orders from the Bureau, we are now making the medical inspection of immigrants. This work has been assigned to Dr. Agramonte and Dr. Torralbas, our boarding officers for incoming vessels.

Assistant Surgeon McConnell has been sick with fever five days, with a rather slow pulse and congested facial appearance, resembling yellow fever. No albumen. The attack was so mild that it left us in doubt as to its true nature. He is now convalescent.

The usual mortality report for the week is appended.

Respectfully, yours,

M. J. ROSENAU,

*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

[Inclosure.]

*Mortality report of the city of Havana, Cuba, for the week ended October 14, 1899.*

Tuberculosis.....	21
Enteritis.....	14
Enteric fever.....	2
Yellow fever.....	4
Malarial fever.....	4
Pneumonia.....	6
Remittent fever.....	1
Deaths from all causes.....	122